



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

August 1, 2006

The Honorable Mike Johanns
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, Southwest
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary,

In the last month, California has endured a record-setting heat wave that caused severe damage and tragedy to our state's agricultural industry.

There has been significant livestock, poultry and crop loss and damage due to fourteen days of temperatures in excess of 100 degrees, reaching record highs for both day and nighttime temperatures. In particular, the dairy industry estimates as many as 2% (or 16,500) of the dairy cows in the central San Joaquin Valley alone died during this heat wave. Milk production is reported to be down 15 to 25% and many calves have been lost at birth due to stress on pregnant cows.

California produces twenty percent of the milk in the nation, ranks in the top ten for broilers and turkeys, and is in the top five for egg production. These industries have suffered extraordinary losses that will impact their ability to meet the nation's and world's food needs.

Preliminary estimates indicate there may also be significant losses in some California fruit, nut and vegetable crops. The California Department of Food and Agriculture is working with the counties and the local agricultural commissioner's office to get verifiable data on the economic losses to agriculture.

Therefore, I am sending my Secretary of Food and Agriculture to share firsthand the impact of this weather event on California agriculture and to request that you issue a

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disaster designation which will make financial assistance from the federal government available to our producers who have suffered horrible losses. I hope that you will move quickly to help our agricultural community.

Thank you for your serious consideration of our request for assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arnold Schwarzenegger", with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

Arnold Schwarzenegger